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**BEEN HERE SINCE 1880**

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1856 It Was Fourth  
Largest in U. S.

Have you ever had a peek at the sky through the old telescope at the Laws Observatory? There are lots of odd things you can see. There are mountains and craters on the moon, planets with moons and queer bands and rings. There are also stars and glowing filmy masses called nebulæ. In daytime there is nothing much to look at except the sun and it is too bright to see well. Sometimes sun spots are visible but you never would recognize them if some one did not tell you what they were.

The old telescope has been exploring the privacy of the universe for a good many years. Perhaps you have never thought of it as having a history. If you have been in the habit of removing your hat to the Columns, it might be well to take it off as you pass the observatory, for the columns are not more than half a dozen years older than the telescope.

**Made in Munich.**

The old telescope was made by Mertz and Mahler of Munich and was brought to Shelbyville, Ky., in 1850. Prof. Joseph Winlock mounted it at Shelby College. Professor Winlock was called to Harvard soon after, and when Dr. B. A. Gould established the Cloverden Observatory at Cambridge, Mass., he borrowed the telescope to use in his work there. It was returned to Shelbyville in 1886 and remained there until 1880, when owing to the bartering ability of President S. S. Laws and Prof. Joseph Ficklin, it was brought to the University of Missouri in exchange for a 4-inch Fitz telescope and \$500.

It was mounted in the Laws Observatory by Professor Ficklin. The repairs and improvements cost about \$2,000. This expense with about \$2,000 more, was met by Doctor Laws, president of the University at that time. The Board of Curators met June 2, 1880, and directed that "in recognition of the liberality of Doctor Laws for the advancement of astronomical science the observatory and the telescope be known as the Laws Observatory and Telescope."

The old telescope has a 7½-inch object glass and a focal length of 10 feet 8 inches. In 1856 it was fourth in size in the United States. According to E. S. Haynes, director of the observatory two years ago, it was probably the largest refracting telescope in this country when it was brought from Europe. It would be a mere toy now beside the huge Yerkes telescope, which is 65 feet long and has an object glass 46 inches in diameter, or the Lick telescope, which is 56 feet long and 36 inches in diameter.

**Called "Great Telescope."**

"Loomis' Recent Progress in Astronomy," published in 1856, made this statement about the Laws telescope:

"The great telescope belonging to Shelby College was lent to Prof. Joseph Winlock and was removed to Cambridge, Mass., where temporary accommodations were provided for it, and this establishment is known as Cloverden Observatory. Numerous observations on comets and on some of the newly discovered planets have been made with this telescope by Dr. G. A. Gould and Prof. Joseph Winlock, some of which have been published in Gould's Astronomical Journal. This great telescope has recently been returned to Shelby College."

In 1889 Professor Winlock, director of the observatory at Harvard, went with his assistants to Shelbyville to see the total eclipse of the sun which occurred August 7 of that year.

The Laws Observatory originally cost \$1,150. It was 44 feet long and 14 feet wide, and stood where the Engineering Building now stands. It was built and equipped under the direction of William W. Hudson, professor of mathematics, natural philosophy and astronomy, and president of the University 1855-1859.

**Observatory Moved.**

When the telescope was mounted a brick tower was provided for it and the observatory was moved to the present site. An office and library were built in 1881. The total cost of the building up to that time, as estimated by Prof. Milton Updegraff, then director of the observatory, was \$7,116. Since then many new instruments and a refraction room have

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been added. The total value is now about \$15,000.

The latitude of the observatory, determined by Professor Updegraff, is 35 degrees, 54 minutes, 51.7 seconds, and the longitude is 6 hours, 9 minutes, 18.33 seconds. The elevation is 737.41 feet.

The Laws Observatory was one of the first of its kind west of the Alleghany Mountains and for years it was the only observatory west of the Mississippi River.

**PERSONAL INTEREST IN PUPILS**  
Success of Cape Girardeau Business College Due to This.

The superintendent of the Cape Girardeau Business College says that the reason for the school's success is that it has taken a personal interest in the welfare of each pupil not only while he is in school but after he leaves.

"We strive in every way to give our students the best there is. Our courses are practical and up-to-date. Students often come to our business college after they have attended other business schools," he says.

The school has been in its present location for nine years. Its enrollment is increasing about 30 per cent each year. It occupies the entire third floor of the Crismon Building at Broadway and Eighth street.

**The Normal School**  
**At Kirksville, Mo.**

This progressive school for teachers is noted for student activities. It has a Music Club, Fine Arts Club, Athletics Club, Political Equality Club, History Club, Rural Sociology Club, Latin Club, German Club, Browning Club, Shakespeare Club, Mathematics Club, Y. M. C. A., Student Publication Association, four Debating Clubs for men and two general Literary Societies for men and women.

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Out of 1450 men and women attending the Kirksville school during 1911-12, more than 900 were engaged in teaching during the year 1912-13. Of these 600 taught in rural schools, 200 in grades of towns and cities, and more than 100 in high school positions, principalships, and superintendencies.

Graduates of the Normal School at Kirksville are in great demand. The institution has on its office desk all the time calls for more teachers than it is able to furnish. Summer Term May 27 to August 8.

Illustrated Bulletin Free.

JOHN R. KIRK, President.

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